

TRAVEL

# Croatia Airlines Plans to Recover from COVID-19 in 2022

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May 24, 2020 - Croatia Airlines CEO Jasmin Bajic spoke to "AirInsight" about how the national carrier plans to recover from the effects of COVID-19.

Namely, [Ex Yu Aviation](#) reports that Croatia Airlines should recover from the effects of the pandemic by 2022, and that it would better position itself in new markets.

"Being a small airline may be an advantage to surviving the global turmoil - we can be more flexible during this time and more daring

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position in existing markets," said Bajic.

Bajic also spoke about the national carrier's recovery, and that it should be back on track by 2022.

"The pre-recovery has started but our industry will need two or three years to truly get back on its feet. We are gradually adding more flights into the distribution systems and we are seeing a positive market response. I would say that the main question is not when the recovery will start but how long it will take to recover. Me and my management team are confident that we can reach our 2019 figures by 2022. Personally, I would not be surprised to see Croatia Airlines' figures reaching 2019 levels by the end of 2021, but we all agree that the recovery will be a long-lasting process during which we may again be exposed to another wave of the virus spread. Having said that, I also want to emphasise that, besides "U" shape and "V" shape scenarios, we need to be prepared for other scenarios too. This applies to many airlines around us as well. Many carriers will have to downsize for an unspecified time".

Bijac concluded by saying the airline would not only connect Croats with Europe and the rest of the world, but would also provide connections for Croatian people within the country and offer direct links to Croatian holiday destinations around Europe.

"Croatia Airlines is a regional carrier with the prime purpose of connecting Croats with Europe and the rest of the world through major European hubs with connections to the networks of our Star Alliance partners. We will continue to connect major European hubs as this is our strategy and it will remain unchanged. However, we will also provide connections for Croatian people to fly within the country and we will continue to provide direct links to Croatian holiday destinations from around Europe. We believe that the hub and spoke system will survive. Croatia Airlines is a strong regional operator with a clear goal. It is also well connected with many other airline partners through its interline and codeshare agreements and part of the best alliance in the world - Star Alliance," Bijac concluded.

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